



Basin of Wasatch Sewer Plant being readied.

Because of Sewer Plant

Reservoir Water Cleaner

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Amid controversy concerning the cost of operating Wasatch County's sprawling new sewage treatment facility, designers say the plant is working well, and will mean cleaner water in Deer Creek Reservoir and for the cities downstream.

The treatment plant, which serves Heber City and Midway, covers 120 acres, and has five large ponds. The first three are treatment ponds, and the remaining two are holding ponds for an irrigation system.

Lee Wimmer, resident engineer, said sewage from the two cities is pumped into the first pond, or cell, where it is oxydized by means of a system of pipes for aeration. First sewage was turned into the pond Aug. 18.

He said it takes 45 days to fill each cell.

Bacterial activity is high in the first cell, and it breaks down the sewage. From there it is pumped into the second cell, which has aerator pipes more widely spaced than the first cell.

"The water becomes progressively cleaner as it goes from the first to third cells," Wimmer said.

The water is chlorinated before it goes into the fourth and fifth holding cells, in order to kill any remaining organisms.

The sewage treatment plant is designed to pre-

vent any sewage or effluent from flowing into Deer Creek Reservoir. All water from the holding tanks will be pumped approximately 1,200 feet to irrigate a large farm purchased by the Heber Valley Special Service District which operates the system.

Large overhead sprinklers will be used to distribute the water to the farmland.

"The irrigation season in Heber Valley is 117 days in length, which means we just have sufficient capacity to hold the water eight months," Wimmer said.

Construction work on the plant began in March, 1980. As the ponds were excavated with massive equipment the dirt was screened, and rocks larger than two inches removed. These large rocks now line the pond perimeters, while the fine-screened material, which is a cohesive clay, covers the pond bottoms to prevent loss through seepage.

Completion date for the system was Oct. 23, according to Wimmer. He said the plant has sufficient capacity to handle the town of Charleston, when that town is able to build a collection system.

Criticism has come from officials in Wasatch County who say it is costing residents as much as \$20 per month extra for the system, and they are asked to subsidize a system which benefits, primarily, the people downstream.